

From: Tom B
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:11am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement (Opposition To)

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. The proposed settlement does not fully redress the actions committed by Microsoft in the past, nor inhibit their ability to commit similar actions in the future.

Microsoft went into this case sure that it could buy its way out. Their cocky behavior preceding, during and after the trial only proved that they did not take the situation seriously. At the time I thought this was an egregious error on their part. Then proposed settlement was released and I, and many like me, were stunned.

Any settlement needs to have provisions to deal effectively with Microsoft's "Embrace and Extend" attitude towards its competition. In order to continue to flourish, the computer world needs more diversity and more interoperability. That second word, "interoperability" is crucial. Microsoft could work with its peers in the industry to make its products work together with new innovations and break-throughs. Instead, Microsoft prefers to crush competitors under the weight of its monopolies in Operating Systems and Office software.

As a developer, I work with Microsoft software consistently and I am aware of the contributions they have made to the industry. That being said, they do not deserve a break on this settlement. Their practices stifle the industry, leave potential innovators afraid to compete, and lock out those Microsoft doesn't favor.

While the Court's desire that a settlement be reached is well-intentioned, this settlement seems content to leave Microsoft as tyrant of the software world. It is unjust and will encourage the sort of behavior that brought this trial about. To encourage another explosion of innovation, Microsoft's monopolistic behavior must be regulated and the company made answerable for its actions.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bellin
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